ONTARIO RURAL

RESEARCH AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

2000 ANNUAL REPORT
TO

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

JANUARY 31, 2001

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1. Executive Summary

This report is the second annual report of the Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee (ORRSC). In 1998, ORRSC set priorities for rural research and services for a 4-year period. As an interim year in this cycle, there was a review and confirmation of the four priority areas, and an updating of the current issues and information needs within those four priority areas.

The priority areas remain as:

A. Economic Development: *The need to strengthen economic growth, entrepreneurship and business development in rural Ontario*

B. Response to Change and Restructuring: *The need to understand, facilitate and assist rural communities as they plan for and act in response to change and restructuring*

C. Capacity Building: *The need to understand community capacity building and enhance rural leadership, organization and community management*

D. Information Technology: *The need to understand the roles of and promote the availability and use of information technology in rural Ontario*

The committee discussion, and therefore the recommendations that follow, reflect the results of changes in local government over the past year, the need to understand the impact of regional approaches to economic development, and the need for timely information to help communities with their decision making at this critical time. The need for a co-ordinated, cross-jurisdictional approach to research was also emphasized.

102-05410/

2. Introduction

The Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee was created under the umbrella of the Ontario Agricultural Services Coordinating Committee system in response to the increased recognition of the diverse nature of rural Ontario and the interdependency of healthy rural communities, sustainable agriculture and local economic development. The committee met in 1998 and presented its four-year strategic directions report in January 1999. This is the second annual report of the Ontario Rural Research and Services Committee and third year of operation as a committee.

The committee membership is a cross section of rural organizations related to economic development, the research community and various levels of government. For example, The Ontario Rural Council (TORC) is a member of the committee. TORC represents over 35 rural organizations and has a mandate to monitor issues in rural Ontario. They host three issue forums and one conference annually. At each of these venues, research and information needs are profiled.

3. Mandate

The mandate of the Rural Research and Services Committee is to identify and prioritize future research and service needs that affect the sustainability of the economic, social and environmental conditions of rural Ontario as determined by Ontario rural stakeholders.

4. Sector Scan

Major Accomplishments Last Year

OMAFRA, in cooperation with the University of Guelph, organized a Rural Research update session in Guelph in November 2000, for staff and stakeholders, with approximately 35 participants. Similar sessions featuring other research projects are tentatively planned for Kemptville and Ridgetown for early 2001.

The Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program at the University of Guelph had seventeen active rural projects (see the table in Appendix A on pages 11-15), and the following completed projects:

1. Assessing Community Economic Impact of Agricultural Exports.
The forward and backward linkages that are associated with small and medium enterprises in Huron County were studied. The researchers interviewed 41 major agricultural exporters and representatives from ten major commodity groups. Agricultural exports generated about $330 million in sales and resulted in 1,031 full-time equivalent jobs. Agriculture was shown to have extensive linkages with other local industries, resulting in benefits which extend beyond the farm gate. Policy makers and land use planners need to "view agriculture and the agri-export industry in the context of the overall benefits and opportunities it provides".

2. Big School, Small School: A socio-economic decision making model concerning the future of rural schools in Ontario.
This project initially determined to collect data on the economic and social aspects of rural schools and prepare a comprehensive bibliography of models and issues of school closures. Extensive review of empirical literature suggested that 'bigger' is not necessarily 'better'. The researchers concluded that rural communities were unique and their educational and related needs could best be served through an enhancement of School Board/rural community partnerships.

3. Developing a Conceptual Framework and Methodology for Studying Rural Communities as Learning Systems.
If rural communities are to survive and thrive through social change and globalization, they must continually learn. Existing literature was used to develop a research model to study rural communities as learning systems. The researcher describes types of interventions which help foster continuous social learning and methods for mapping communities as learning systems.

OMAFRA's Special Research Program funded five new rural projects (see the table in Appendix B on pages 16-17). The following projects were completed:

1. Planning for the Future Development of the Niagara 'On-Farm' Wine Industry.
The dynamics of the 'on-farm' wine industry and the appropriateness of related provincial, regional and local planning policy were studied. Existing land use policy was examined and wine industry stakeholders in the Niagara Region and the Okanagan Valley in BC were surveyed. General recommendations include: that "the establishment of additional estate

wineries are likely to contribute to continued agricultural and estate winery diversification"; that land-use planners need to develop a more consistent policy across the region for the development of wineries and agri-tourism; that the "ability of the grape growers to produce grapes and of estate winery owners to produce a world-class product" should be protected and that agri-tourism in the region needs further development.

2. Activating the Rural Canada Bibliography Project.
An interactive web site which lists an inventory of past and on-going rural research was established (see http://wwwuoguelph.ca/~rcb/about.htm). The database will be expanded and maintained by the Rural Canada Bibliography Association. There are currently about 3000 records available through the database.

The Changing Rural Landscape

Rural Ontario has a diversified economy (no industry or more than one industry represents over 20% of the employment); however, the diversity varies across rural Ontario. Regional opportunities vary with the proximity to an urban area, the natural landscape amenities, the telecommunications infrastructure, the transportation network, and the skilled labour force among other factors.

The manufacturing and service sectors continue to shift and change to survive in global markets. By late 2000, the decline in the auto manufacturing sector in the United States was significantly impacting the auto supply sector in rural Ontario. Plant closures and layoffs are likely to reach a significant impact level in rural Ontario. Also, this past year has seen a significant challenge to the grain and oil seeds portion of the agriculture sector.

Local service realignment, as part of the municipal restructuring process, has brought new challenges to rural municipalities as they struggle to determine the most efficient and effective way to deliver services to their residents and businesses, with a minimal tax increase. Infrastructure, economic development, children's services, ambulance service, social assistance programs, transportation, and social housing are just a few of the areas where the province has delegated responsibility to local government. The status of municipal amalgamations and response processes is at a variety of stages across the province. The Province is presently requiring all municipalities to upgrade public health and safety components related to water and sewage systems to a provincial standard.

The local and regional education and health systems are dealing with a new reality of criteria that threaten the usual service patterns in some rural communities. Several communities have declared themselves as under-serviced with doctors and other health care professionals. Communities are competing for ways to attract new personnel with municipally or privately owned clinics to balance the low attraction of doctors to some rural areas.

Some school boards are dealing with recommended school closures and the adjustment of school boundaries to meet their funding criteria. In rural communities this poses a great concern to families due to the greater distances students will be expected to travel. Rural school boards are

concerned with the cost of providing the transportation service. Students may have limited access to extra-curricular activities, after school employment and co-op work opportunities. The Canadian Rural Partnership program is still operating. Some of the projects funded through this program may have research or data gathering components. ORRSC will monitor these projects for information which may be of value to the itself or researchers through its federal representative.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has funding programs directly related to rural economic development. The Rural Youth Job Strategy will receive applications until March 31, 2001 and is available to community organizations as well as rural businesses. Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture addresses issues relating to clean water, safe foods, and new markets. OMAFRA is administering the OSTAR Infrastructure initiative which assists municipalities in addressing any public health and safety issues related to water and sewage systems.

The Ontario Rural Capacity Assessment project (ORCA), which was initiated by TORC and the Ontario Association of Community Futures Development Corporations last year, is progressing. ORCA is an inventory and an assessment of community-based organizations and supporting resources that improve the economic capacity of rural communities.

5. Report of Action Taken on Previous Recommendations

Following are the actions taken in response to the recommendations made by the Rural Research & Services Committee meeting in 1999:

Recommendation #1: To shift priority B "Response to Change and Restructuring' to be the top priority for the upcoming research year.

Response: This recommendation was taken into consideration when research project funds were allocated this past year.

Recommendation #2: To ensure that rural research needs and current projects are discussed by the federal government's Rural Team Ontario (RTO).

Response : Rural Team Ontario meets on a monthly basis, except for July and August. The Chair of the ORRSC is a member of Rural Team Ontario and has the opportunity to provide monthly updates to the RTO. As well, the chair of the ORRSC or a designate is a member of the RTO's rural research committee, with the goal of avoiding duplication of resources and improve the duplication of resource funds.

Recommendation #3: That the following OASCC sub-committees – Soil, Water and Air, Agriculture and Food Engineering, and Agricultural Economics – be approached to consider the impact of decisions regarding the quality of rural environment on community economic development strategies.

Response : Action on this recommendation was initiated; further discussion is needed.

6. Rural Research and Service Priorities

In 1998, the Committee set the following priorities for rural research and services:

A. Economic Development: *The need to strengthen economic growth, entrepreneurship and business development in rural Ontario.*

B. Response to Change and Restructuring: *The need to understand, facilitate and assist rural communities as they plan for and act in response to change and restructuring.*

C. Capacity Building: *The need to understand community capacity building and enhance rural leadership, organization and community management.*

D. Information Technology: *The need to understand the roles of and promote the availability and use of information technology in rural Ontario.*

The committee this year reflected on and confirmed the current priorities, after committee members presented the issues and information needs of their respective organization. The following discussion focussed on key or changing issues and gaps within the priority areas. Some changes were made in the priority of sub-topics within the priority areas.

The following is a list of the current research recommendations, in order of priority:

A. Economic Development*: The Need to Strengthen Economic Growth, Entrepreneurship and Business Development In Rural Ontario*

1. Development of models for regional approaches to economic development
   - effective regional models for health care.
2. Why does one community succeeds and another fails? (e.g. best practices)
   - what are the socio-economic determinants?
   - need many case studies
   - twinning a rural town in Canada with a rural town in Europe how success stories get shared
3. What are the factors for successful small and medium sized enterprises?
   - entrepreneurs, home based business, etc.
   - benefits of networking
   - effects of transportation on the movement of goods and people
4. What environmental issues need to be considered in economic development?
5. What are the best practices of rural tourism?
   - What is the impact of tourism on communities?
     - i.e. types of jobs
     - culinary tourism – need an inventory of processed foods and ingredients and identify the location of the suppliers
     - develop methods for collecting reliable tourism statistics of the impact of tourism at the local level
     - What is the connection between land-use planning and tourism?

6. What are the key aboriginal/ethnic issues in education, health etc.? (Need to understand sensitivities and future demographics).
7. What is needed to support niche marketing? (i.e. access to metropolitan markets, training, etc.)
8. Global economy – the technical ability to eliminate distance.
9. What are the success factors for knowledge-intensive enterprises in rural Ontario?
10. What are the relationships between environmental approaches to management? (i.e. issues and economic development).
11. What are the key issues/linkages impacting business development (i.e. access to capital, appropriate training of business person etc.)?
12. What is the impact of changes in regulations/legislation on rural and agricultural communities/businesses with respect to economic development?
    - changes in food safety regulations,
    - small waterworks
    - the ability of agriculture to compete in the changing regulatory environment.
13. What is the role of agriculture in rural Ontario?
    - Determine whether additional residences in rural areas actually increase the tax base or not – important as greater conflict develops between agriculture and residential communities (linked to priority of agriculture/community interface.
14. What is the impact of increase cost of energy – fuels and alternative fuels on economic development?
15. What is the impact of transportation services and access on geographic mobility and access to health care/services?

B. Response To Change and Restructuring: *The Need to Understand, Facilitate & Assist Rural Communities as They Plan for & Act in Response to Change & Restructuring.*

1. Impact of changes in infrastructure management as a result of restructuring:
    - how are municipalities handling the responsibilities that have been downloaded?
2. What is the agriculture/rural community interface?
    - healthy communities ability to adapt as sectors have different agendas
3. Understanding and responding to restructuring:
    - what are the costs, difficulties and opportunities? (including options for restructuring - e.g. will larger townships do better)
    - what scale does a municipality need to be in order to provide required services?
    - what training is required for municipal councilors?
        - study of coping mechanisms for municipal restructuring;
        - impact of restructuring
        - evaluation of trends in municipal government – who is campaigning for office, voter turn-out in rural areas (about 30%)
    - what is the infrastructure needed to make a community work?
    - who sets the standards for basic services between rural communities?
    - what are the key success factors for municipalities to attract investment and business? development in rural communities?
    - what are the implications for rural health care and social service restructuring?

- socio–technical impacts on health – why were there closing of rural schools but not hospitals?
- what are the implications of rural education restructuring?
- what are the effects of restructuring on non-government services?
- what is the cumulative impact of restructuring?

4. Understanding funding & development mechanisms.
5. What are the spin-off effects of losing gov't/corporate/union positions? (i.e. benefit packages)
6. What are communities doing to prepare for economic development?
7. What are the typologies of rural (e.g. patterns of rurality)

C. Capacity Building: *The Need to Better Understand, Community Capacity Building to Enhance Rural Leadership, Organizations & Community Management*

1. Rural youth:
   - identification of rural youth opportunities (includes mobility issue)
   - models for effective means of getting youth involved in rural organizations/communications – succession planning (e.g. Quebec model – also look at 10-Steps to Community Action program as an example)
   - human resource development: education and training needs for the future transportation and housing for youth
2. Understanding collaboration frameworks (e.g. effective collaboration processes, evaluation, unbiased representation).
3. What are the socio-economical determinants of healthy communities, individuals?
4. Capacity building - what needs to be done?
5. What is the nature of work in rural communities? (e.g. availability and type of jobs/livelihoods)
6. Understanding leadership, governance, organizational development (capacity building) - conflict resolution
7. What are human resource development and education and training needs for the future?
8. What alternative cooperative models exist?
9. What do people need to take advantage of access to IT?
10. Why some "special population" communities succeed/not succeed?
11. What's the infrastructure needed to make a community work ?(eg. roads, sewer, water)
12. What is the adaptive capacity of communities? (i.e. various components - psychological state)
13. What is the impact of social capital to business and communities?
14. What is the economic value of rural volunteers in economic development?

D. Information Technology: *The Need to Better Understand & Promote the Availability and Use of Information Technology in Rural Ontario*

1. Understanding the process of getting information out to rural communities:
   - value of information technology/infrastructure,
   - applications for technology transfer and rural development

- how can e-commerce be introduced to benefit rural businesses and communities?

2. Understanding rural demographic and future needs - databases/information
3. How does telecommunications address various research & development concerns and support increase access to service?
4. The need to monitor and evaluate technology.
5. Link to tech transfer - approaches to tech transfer - effective tools, methods, for information dissemination and tech transfer – communication.
6. What are the most effective applications of IT for rural Ontario?
7. Lack of resources to train communities on benefits and applications of IT.
8. Will IT draw more jobs out of rural Ontario than bringing in new jobs?
9. Policy barriers/benefits/costs of telemedicines and telehealth.

7. Recommendations Arising from the Gaps/Barriers/Deficiencies

The current state of rural Ontario, plus recent research results influenced the priorities and their respective issues this year. Economic Development as moved back to priority # A. Issues, formerly listed by bullet points, were numbered in priority order. Some new issues were added, while others were grouped together or transferred between priorities.

A. Economic Development:

- new issue #1 –"Development of models for regional approaches to economic development (includes effective regional models for health care)" . Local service realignment, as part of the municipal restructuring process, has brought new challenges to rural municipalities as they struggle to determine the most efficient and effective way to deliver services. Evidence suggests that regional approaches to services and economic development may be more effective.
- new issue #13 – "What is the role of agriculture in rural Ontario?" was transferred from priority B. Response to Change and Restructuring
- new issue #12 – "What is the impact of changes in regulations/legislation on rural and agricultural communities/businesses with respect to economic development? Sub-topics: changes in food safety regulations; small waterworks; and the ability of agriculture to compete in the changing regulatory environment."
- new issue #14 – " What is the impact of increase cost of energy – fuels and alternative fuels on economic development?"
- new issue #15 – "What is the impact of transportation services and access on geographic mobility and access to health care/services?"

B. Response to Changes and Restructuring:

- new issue #1 –"Impact of changes in infrastructure management as a result of restructuring"

C Capacity Building:

- new issue # 1 - regarding rural youth. The rural volunteer is even more in demand with the downloading of services from the province to the municipalities. Many volunteer organizations are concerned with succession planning and ways to keep rural youth in their communities

Information Technology:

- new issue #1 – "Understanding process of getting information out to rural communities - including value of information technology/infrastructure, applications for technology transfer and rural development"
- new issue #6 – "What are the most effective applications of IT for rural Ontario?"
- new issue #7 – "lack of resources to train communities on benefits and applications of IT"
- new issue #8 – " Will IT draw more jobs out of rural Ontario than bringing in new jobs?"
- new issue # 9 – "Policy barriers/benefits/costs of telemedicines and telehealth "

Appendix A – Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program, University of Guelph

Rural Economic Development Projects

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
23120	Harry Cummings	Assessing Community Economic Impact of Agricultural Exports	Examine the forward and backward linkages that are associated with small and medium enterprises in Huron County. The research will also work to determine the specific and general problems that inhibit the ability of these enterprises to develop and expand.	99/00 finished
23440	Don Reid	Rural Tourism: Best Practices to Maximize Economic and Social Benefits	To develop a framework for sustainable rural tourism based upon development needs, best practices while recognizing social, environmental and economic impacts. The framework will be designed to be used by rural municipalities in establishing and maintaining a local sustainable tourism destination.	99/02
23440	Don Reid	Rural Tourism: Best Practices to Maximize Economic and Social Benefits	To develop a framework for sustainable rural tourism based upon development needs, best practices while recognizing social, environmental and economic impacts. The framework will be designed to be used by rural municipalities in establishing and maintaining a local sustainable tourism destination.	99/02
23460	Robert Brown	Effects of Land Use Policy on Economic Potential of Rural Tourism in Southern Ontario	To identify desirable characteristics of rural landscapes among five stakeholder groups; develop best practice guidelines	99/02
23510	David Douglas	Toward More Effective Rural Economic Development in Ontario: An Integrated Analysis of Changing Municipal and Community Roles and Practices	This is an integrated applied research project designed to address fundamental problems and opportunities in the rapidly changing economy in rural Ontario.	99/02
25090	Ken Nentwig	Socio-economic Capacity for Horticultural Civic Beautification: A Model for Small Ontario Communities	Methods for, and parameters of, Increasing the capacity of rural communities in their development processes and leadership capabilities are not entirely understood. This research will give insight into the workings of one particular project that is engaged in organizing community effort to enhance the quality of life through civic beautification. The efforts of this project - in Ridgetown, Ontario - have already been expanded from a pilot effort last year, and are being examined by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as a model for other similar localities.	00/03

Appendix A – Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program, University of Guelph

Rural Economic Development Projects con't:

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
25220	Ken Nentwig	Horticultural Industry Value-Added Business Statistics for Ontario	Farm-gate values for nursery, sod and greenhouse production are well documented through Statistics Canada and OMAFRA. These values do not, however, reflect the overall size and impact of the entire horticulture industry sectors in Ontario. Previous research (Project 21650) has determined a number of different manners of quantifying the value-added aspects beyond farm-gate (or wholesale) value, and a system for the collection and reporting of these statistics is in place. Carrying the system forward and implementing the survey format and reporting is proposed in this project.	00/04

Response to Change and Restructuring Projects:

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
23520	John Fitzgibbon	Managing Rural Communities in the New Millennium	This study will inventory and evaluate the progress that is being made by municipalities in dealing with the complex problems of restructuring of local government its mandate and financial basis of operation. It will identify the contextual constraints and opportunities that limit and support the initiative taken by municipalities and develop a strategic planning process and tactics that can be adapted to the context of the local municipality.	00/03
23540	John Smithers	Sustainable Rural Systems in Ontario: (Re) Linking Agriculture and Community in an Era of Change	This research is concerned with the evolving dynamics of farm and rural community interaction and with the potential for strategic rural development to promote mutual sustainability. Theoretical work will be used to gain an understanding of the general relationship between the key forces, processes and outcomes of change in agriculture and communities. Empirical work will be used to flesh-out theoretical insights and to ground them in local circumstances and prospects for sustainability.	99/03
24400	Tony Fuller, Ellen Wall	Social Capital in Rural Ontario: Opportunities and Impacts Related to Municipal Restructuring and Changes in Service Delivery	In collaboration with a national project investigating social cohesion in rural Canada, this research will focus on how recent jurisdictional amalgamations and withdrawal of provincial rural extension services are affecting the quality and quantity of social capital in specific rural Ontario communities	00/04

Appendix A – Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program, University of Guelph

Response to Change and Restructuring Projects con't

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
24440	Al Lauzon	Negotiating Rural Futures: A Study of the Relationship between Rural Communities and Boards of Education During Periods of School Consolida	A) to study the relationship between Boards of Education and rural community groups during a period of school consolidation; b) to develop a model and a set of best practices for forming relationships between Boards of Education and rural communities and c) based on last years study findings, and the findings of this study, produce a video and study guide that could be used by rural communities and Boards of Education to form partnerships to best serve the interests and needs of all stakeholders	00/02
24400	Tony Fuller and Ellen Wall	Social Capital in Rural Ontario: Opportunities and Impacts Related to Municipal Restructuring and Changes in Service Delivery	In collaboration with a national project investigating social cohesion in rural Canada, this research will focus on how recent jurisdictional amalgamations and withdrawal of provincial rural extension services are affecting the quality and quantity of social capital in specific rural Ontario communities	00/04
23450	Mark Waldron	Big School, Small School: A socio-economic decision making model concerning the future of rural schools in Ontario	This study will explore the background of the issue , collect socio-economic data in six rural communities, explore the issue with representations of each and in each of the selected communities and then develop a decision-making process that could be used by local communities with respect to rural school closures.	99/00 finished

Capacity Building Projects:

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
23420	Al Lauzon	Developing a Conceptual Framework and Methodology for Studying Rural Communities as Learning Systems	This proposal is arguing that if successful interventions are to be made to assist rural communities in meeting the challenges of economic globilization then we need to understand rural communities as learning systems. The purpose of this proposal is to develop a conceptual framework/model of rural communities as learning systems.	99/00 finished
23500	Tony Fuller	Community Based Responses to Rural Transportation Issues in Ontario	The project will analyze the experiences of selected rural communities in Ontario to determine the efficiencies and effectiveness of community-based transportation planning, stimulated by the Community Transportation Action Program (CTAP) of the provincial government. Such experiences will be monitored and analyzed over a three-year period for their creative ideas, the community support structure, the spatial effectiveness, and their cost benefits.	99/02

Appendix A – Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program, University of Guelph

Capacity Building Projects con't:

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
23530	Barry Smit	Managing Change and Uncertainty in Farming and Rural Communities	This project focuses on changes associated with government support programs for farming, and their implications for agriculture-related rural communities. Shifts in the roles of government - part of globalization processes already underway in Canada and further advanced in some other countries - have the potential to seriously disrupt the viability of farming and hence the sustainability of associated rural communities.	99/03
23540	John Smithers	Sustainable Rural Systems in Ontaric: (Re) Linking Agriculture and Community in an Era of Change	This research is concerned with the evolving dynamics of farm and rural community interaction and with the potential for strategic rural development to promote mutual sustainability. Theoretical work will be used to gain an understanding of the general relationship between the key forces, processes and outcomes of change in agriculture and communities. Empirical work will be used to flesh-out theoretical insights and to ground them in local circumstances and prospects for sustainability.	99/03
24400	Tony Fuller and Ellen Wall	Social Capital in Rural Ontario: Opportunities and Impacts Related to Municipal Restructuring and Changes in Service Delivery	In collaboration with a national project investigating social cohesion in rural Canada, this research will focus on how recent jurisdictional amalgamations and withdrawal of provincial rural extension services are affecting the quality and quantity of social capital in specific rural Ontario communities	00/04
24440	Al Lauzon	Negotiating Rural Futures: A Study of the Relationship between Rural Communities and Boards of Education During Periods of School Consolida	A) to study the relationship between Boards of Education and rural community groups during a period of school consolidation; b) to develop a model and a set of best practices for forming relationships between Boards of Education and rural communities and c) based on last years study findings, and the findings of this study, produce a video and study guide that could be used by rural communities and Boards of Education to form partnerships to best serve the interests and needs of all stakeholders.	00/02
25390	Dean Donaldson	Rural Restructuring 's Impact on the Agricultural Communities Voice in Local Governance n Renfrew County	It is proposed that a comprehensive study be undertaken of Renfrew County, the largest geographic County in the Province of Ontario, with the objective of developing a report which would outline findings and proposed recommendations relative to insuring that the farm community maintains a voice in local governance consistent with the level of economic importance of the agricultural industry. The research will rely heavily upon having the access to staff and the co-operation of Renfrew County Council.	00/01

Appendix A – Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program, University of Guelph

Capacity Building Projects con't:

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
25400	D. Gilmer	Assessing Human Resource Management Skill Gaps and Resource Needs of Agricultural Business employers in Small Enterprises	Agricultural businesses are becoming larger and more specialized and there are significant opportunities for growth. However, several factors may prevent business expansion such as available capital, highly competitive or meager markets and human resource management deficiencies. This project examines the human factors that may act as barriers to expansion.	00/02

Information Technology Projects:

PROJECT #	LEADER	TITLE	PROJECT GOALS	START /END
23480	Don Pletsch	PACTS for Rural Ontario: Partnerships, Accessibility and Connectivity Transformation Strategies for Rural Ontario	To develop innovative framework to assess the impact of telecommunication in rural Ont; to implement action research in association with rural communities, the private sector, public organizations and rural businesses	99/02

Appendix B – Special Research – Rural Projects

Rural Economic Development Projects:

PROJECT #	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
SR9002	Treatment of Municipal Wastewater in Rural Areas: The Alfred Pilot System	Claude Weil	To monitor and evaluate the performance of a constructed wetland system for treating municipal wastewater; to test slag as a medium to remove excess phosphorus; to provide guidelines for the construction of wastewater treatment constructed wetlands for Ontario.	04-Jan-99 to 31-Dec-00
SR9018	Planning for the Future Development of the Niagara "On Farm " Wine Industry	Wayne Caldwell	To understand the dynamics of the "on-farm" wine industry and to evaluate the appropriateness of related provincial, regional and local planning policy.	01-Jun-99 to 31-May-00 Final report completed

Infrastructure and rural economic development projects:

PROJECT #	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
SR9021	Phosphorus Removal From Septic Wastewater	Chris Kinsley	To develop and on-site treatment system to remove phosphorus from septic wastewater	01-Jun-99 to 31-Mar-01
SR9024	Activating the Rural Canada Bibliography Project	Mark Waldron	To establish the Rural Canada Bibliography Project as a useful research tool; to collect and preserve bibliographic information related to rural Ont/Canada; promote rural Ont/Canada through web site; provide inventories of past and on-going research. See http://www.uoguelph.ca/~rcb/about.htm	01-Jun-99 to 31-May-00 finished and web site active
SR9052	Maintaining Rural Road Infrastructure: Where are We Now, Where Do We Want to Go from Here?	Todd Gordon	Maintenance of rural roads is being influenced by several factors, including changed funding arrangements and the globalization of the agricultural sector. Many roads carry a great volume of agricultural, commercial and recreational traffic. This project's main purpose is to review and update changes affecting rural roads in Ontario and identify/consult with rural road stakeholders regarding rural road issues.	01-Jun-00 to 01-Feb-01

Appendix B – Special Research – Rural Projects

Agricultural community – economic, social and environmental sustainability:

PROJECT #	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	PROJECT GOALS	START/END
SR9054	Economic Development and Social Capital: Linkages, Opportunities and Impacts for Rural Ontario Communities	Ellen Wall and David Connell	This project will build on the New Rural Economy project on Social Cohesion. The main goal is to examine the linkages between social capital and economic development so that both can be enhanced in rural Ontario communities as they undergo various forms of restructuring.	15-Jun-00 to 14-Jun-02
SR9053	Rural Non-Farm Development : Its Impact on the Viability and Sustainability of Agricultural and Rural Communities	Dr. Wayne Caldwell	Agriculture has intensified while the number of rural non-farm lots has increased. We don't know the number of lots created or the impact on agriculture. The project will: create a database of the number of rural, non-farm lots created in rural Ontario during the 1990's; determine the relationship between current provincial policy & creation of rural; identify the impact these lots are having on the agriculture industry and review the impact on the viability & sustainability of agriculture in rural communities.	15-Jun-00 to 14-Jun-02
SR9066	Rural Community Research Inventory	Mark Waldron	The website is research tool which will enhance the efficiency of ongoing and future research for rural Ontario. It will produce an inventory database which will be merged with the Rural Canada Bibliography Association website in Sept 2000.	01-Oct-00 to 03-May-01
SR9046	Sustainability in the Ontario Processed Vegetable Industry	Clarence Swanton and Ellen Wall	The vegetable processing industries impact on many rural communities in southwestern Ontario. The project will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the industry's sustainability for the future; identification of problem areas and opportunities for growth; recommended actions for the long term health of the vegetable processing industry.	01-Jun-00 to 31-May-01

Appendix C – ORRSC MEMBERSHIP LIST 2000

NAME/ORGANIZATION	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
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(con't)

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Ron Bonnett, *Ontario Federation of Agriculture* Bruce Mines, ON P0R 1C0	705-785-3402	705-785-1054	rbonne@adss.on.ca
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Appendix D – ONTARIO RURAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The whole OASCC system was reviewed in 1997-98. The review suggested that the Rural Development sub-committee of the Agricultural Economics Research and Services Co-ordinating Committee be removed from the Economics umbrella. Thus the Ontario Rural Community Development Research and Services Committee (ORCDRSC) was established in the fall of 1998. It was renamed the "Rural Research and Services Committee" in the fall of 1999.

Mandate:

To identify and prioritize future research and service needs which affect the sustainability of the economic, social and environmental conditions of rural Ontario as determined by Ontario rural stakeholders.

Membership:

- Rural community development practitioners
- Three levels of government (Municipal, Provincial and Federal)
- Researchers

Terms:

- To assess and establish priorities for rural economic development research and service programs
- To communicate and discuss on-going rural research with respect to objectives, procedures and results
- To recommend institutions which, or individuals who, could effectively be responsible for particular research and service needs
- For members to be responsible for gathering research and service needs of the organizations that they represent
- To liaise with the Economics Research and Services Committee for greater effectiveness and efficiency
- To report annually to OASCC summarizing the prioritized needs for rural research and recommendations on resource use and allocations